

GOVERNOR OFFERS REWARD OF \$1,500

Will Be Paid for Conviction of
First Three Participants
in Frank Lynching.

ISSUES LONG STATEMENT

Says State Authorities Protect
Prisoner to the Best of Their
Limited Ability.

ATLANTA, Ga., Aug. 19. — Governor Harris tonight proclaimed a reward of \$1,500 for the first three persons convicted of participation in the lynching of Leo M. Frank. At the same time he issued a statement declaring he would do all in his power to apprehend the perpetrators of the "unfortunate occurrence."

In defense of the State authorities the Governor pointed out that the prison farm, from which Frank was abducted, was not constructed to withstand attack from the outside, and declared that the complete secrecy with which the lynchers made their careful preparations made impossible any defense which might have saved the prisoner.

It is not believed any further action will be taken in the way of an investigation of the State Prison. The members of the State Prison Commission were on a visit to the institution when the attack occurred and have held that the prison officials were powerless to prevent the attacking party from carrying out its purpose.

Governor Harris's statement in part follows:

Was in State's Safest Place.

"In view of the great interest felt in all matters concerning the lynching of the prisoner, Frank, I have thought it well to make a statement to the public explaining as far as I can the facts that led up to the transaction and the situation that made it possible," says the Governor.

"When Mr. Frank's sentence was commuted by Governor Slaton to life imprisonment he was sent to the State farm for the purpose of being delivered to the Prison Commission at that point. He could have been sent by the commission to one of the county chain gangs of the State or put to work in the prison, in the discretion of the commission.

"The excitement which attended his entrance into the prison was such that no disposition that would send him away from it seemed safe or advisable, as after events have shown. There was really no gang in Georgia where he would have been secure. He was kept at work, therefore, in the prison, as other prisoners, awaiting any other disposition that might be found advisable.

"The State Penitentiary, as it is called, was never built with the idea of preventing an attack from the outside. Any determined body of men would be able to effect an entrance, if such an attempt was decided upon. The vast building was full of windows, both in the basement and main story. It was like a dormitory, one great sleeping apartment, the prisoners working out upon the farm in the daytime, and occupying the sleeping dormitory at night. The cots stood side by side, in easy proximity.

Feared Attack from Within.

"In my consultation with the Prison Commission over Mr. Frank, we felt and thought of the need of more guards, more Wardens, but the idea was that these were needed to prevent his fellow-prisoners from hurting him. I felt that there was too much exposure in letting the prisoners all sleep together in the same great room.

"But the outside attack was not considered in this. Such danger was thought to be small after the first month. It was believed that if a prison guard could hold an attacking party in check long enough to get word to the authorities, the prisoners could be protected. The county authorities were close at hand, and there was one of the best military companies in the State within two miles of the prison. This company, with the militia in Macon, had been directed by the Adjutant General to keep in readiness for immediate service, if called on.

"The complete secrecy of the movement, the careful preparation of every detail, the cutting of the telephone and telegraph wires, thus completely isolating the prison from the outside world, prevented any expected assistance, and enabled the attack to succeed.

"Some four weeks ago I received an alarm in the form of a secret message to the effect that a mob intended to storm the prison and lynch Frank on a certain night. I at once telephoned the authorities in charge, including the Prison Commission, the Warden at the State Farm, the Sheriff of Baldwin County, and Captain Ennis of the Baldwin Rifles. I secured the proper request from the civil authorities and immediately had General Nash get in readiness to handle any local situation that might arise, and Captain Ennis was directed to call his men to the Armory, prepared to go to the farm at once. The Macon Military was also put under arms. For this course I incurred considerable censure, for the alarm seemed to be entirely unfounded.

"It has come to light since the result of Monday night's work that my prompt action in this matter delayed the lynching of the prisoner for a month, as the mob, coming to within a few miles of Milledgeville and hearing of the preparation, decided to postpone the attack.

"On Monday night the militia would have been called out had the request been made in time.

Frank Was Still in Hospital.

"I have found on inquiry of the Prison Commission that Frank was still in the hospital, confined to the single room where he had been kept since the attempt upon his life by William Green. He had not been taken into the common quarters, but was in confinement in the hospital, which, though under the same roof with the prison, is separated from it by partitions and passageways extending through the building.

"There is no man in the bounds of the State who regrets more deeply than I do this unfortunate occurrence. I shall do all in my power to discover and bring to justice the perpetrators, believing that the people at large do not justify the wave of lawlessness that seems to be spreading through the State. Mob law should never take the place of statute law. There will be no safety to life, lib-

erty, or property until this is recognized by our people.

"It was especially distressing to me because the attack was made upon the State's own prison, built not to resist the violence of its citizens outside, but to keep in confinement the weak and helpless convicts who were unfit for service in the chain gang of the counties."

The Board of Directors of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce today unanimously adopted resolutions urging the Governor and other State officials to exert every effort to apprehend and convict the men who lynched Frank. The resolutions, which refer to the band as a "secret oathbound organization," say:

"The question now is, shall we have a State Government in fact, as well as in name, or shall we be ruled by an organized mob? What we are dealing with is anarchy in its most dangerous form. If it continues, no man's life will be safe. Let every man who is a man stand ready to actively aid the officers of the law in stamping out the mob spirit."

Has Frank's Wedding Ring.

O. B. Keeler, a newspaper man, employed in Atlanta, but residing in Marietta, in a published article today says that Frank's wedding ring was delivered to him at his home last night by a man unknown to him. Keeler says a note in an envelope with the ring read:

"Frank's dying request was that his wedding ring be given to his wife. Will you not see that this request is carried out? The note will be delivered to you by a man you do not know and who does not know you. Make no effort to find out his identity. You are expected to destroy this after reading it."

Keeler said he destroyed the note at once and quoted from memory.

Frank's ring was not on the body when it was discovered hanging near Marietta, Keeler said.

NEW REWARD FOR LYNCHERS.

New York Committee to Seek Punishment of Men Who Hanged Frank.

A committee of New York citizens was formed yesterday at a meeting in the chambers of Judge Edward Swann in the Criminal Court Building to co-operate with the State of Georgia in bringing to justice the men who lynched Leo M. Frank.

The following temporary officers were elected: Judge Edward Swann, Chairman; Isidore M. Levy, Vice Chairman, and Herman A. Metz, Treasurer. Among others at the meeting were ex-Congressman William S. Bennett, Allan Robinson, and Harry Schlacht. Mr. Levy, outlining what the committee hoped to accomplish after the meeting said:

"We do not propose to do anything that might antagonize the officers or the people of Georgia. Rather we hope to proffer our services and our money toward bringing to justice the murderers of Leo M. Frank.

"Governor Harris has said that \$500 is all he is authorized by law to offer as a reward. That is a ridiculously small amount, so we propose to open a subscription and offer to Georgia through its Governor a part of this money to be put up as a reward. With the remainder of the money collected we will hire investigators to seek evidence and turn over to the State whatever they may discover pointing to the guilt of any individual.

"We do not anticipate that Georgia will receive our tender of services in any other spirit than that in which it is made.

"The committee is non-sectarian. Among those who will be asked to join will be the Rev. Dr. S. Howard Young, Judge Roger A. Pryor, Judge Scudder, and Bishop Greer. Its formation was suggested by a man who is not a Jew, and to avoid the appearance that the movement is one of any creed or religion some prominent Jewish citizens who would otherwise be asked to serve will not be asked."

Subscriptions will be received by Mr. Metz at 122 Hudson Street. Mr. Levy said that probably a permanent organization for stamping out the spirit of lawlessness that made lynchings possible might grow out of the present temporary body.

The Medical Review of Reviews yesterday offered \$500 toward a reward for the capture of the lynchers.